

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01409 021355Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----050198 031413Z /53

R 021330Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7838
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1409

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, CY
SUBJECT: SURRENDER OF ARMS: DEADLINE ENDS

REF: NICOSIA 1275 (DTG 171231Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AS DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01409 021355Z

ILLEGAL ARMS ENDED MAY 31, IT APPEARED THAT SOME 2,000
WEAPONS HAD BEEN HANDED OVER, INCLUDING ONE DOUBLE-BARRELED
ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN, SEVERAL HEAVY AND LIGHT MACHINE GUNS
AND MANY RIFLES AND HAND GUNS. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED
THAT THESE WEAPONS, MANY OF THEM DAMAGED, SUPERANNUATED,
AND UNSERVICEABLE, REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF
ILLEGAL WEAPONS ON THE ISLAND. MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF

WEAPONS HANDED IN CAME FROM PRESENT OR FORMER ADHERENTS
OF RIGHT WING, PRIMARILY OF EOKA B.

2. GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT ILLEGAL ARMS HAS
RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. HOWEVER,
NEWSPAPERS HAVE SPLIT ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES ON QUESTION
OF WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO APPLY ARMS POLICY
UNIFORMLY TOWARDS ALL POLITICAL GROUPS. RIGHT-WING PRESS
POINTS OUT THAT SO FAR ONLY RIGHTISTS HAVE RESPONDED TO
GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO HAND IN ARMS AND ASKS WHEN AUTHORITIES
WILL MOVE AGAINST LEFT-WING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH HOLD ILLEGAL ARMS. LEFT-WING PRESS ON OTHER HAND,
CHARGES THAT EOKA B TYPES ARE STILL IN POSSESSION OF
LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS AND QUESTIONS WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL
MOVE FIRMLY TO CONFISCATE THEM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. QUESTION OF ILLEGAL
ARMS IS A POTENTIALLY CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR KYPRIANOU GOVERNMENT.
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMS. GOC IS FIRMLY ON RECORD AS
INTENDING TO MOVE FORCEFULLY, FOLLOWING MAY 31 DEADLINE,
TO SEIZE ALL ILLEGAL ARMS AND PROSECUTE THOSE WHO HOLD THEM.
WHETHER IT DOES SO, FIRMLY AND EVENHANDEDLY, WILL BE A
TEST OF ITS CREDIBILITY AND ABILITY TO HOLD THE
CONFIDENCE OF THE RIGHT. IT WILL ALSO INDICATE HOW
BEHOLDEN KYPRIANOU IS TO THE LEFTIST PARTIES, ESPECIALLY
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01409 021355Z

THE HEAVILY ARMED SOCIALIST (EDEK) PARTY OF DR. VASSOS
LYSSARIDES. END COMMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL.
DILLERY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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